

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of January 8, 2013
Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 7:00pm

Present: Selectmen Jack Franey, Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Chairman Mike O'Donnell, Richard Ward and Town Administrator Richard LaFond. Elaine Weston took the meeting minutes.

The Chair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the announcements.

7:00 p.m. Website Committee Update: Steve Dewhurst

Dewhurst described the subscription capabilities of the website. He stated that any meeting running on CCAT will also be available on the website in the next few weeks. Also, the committee has added intelligent error pages where it may help redirect you to a correct link; and legal protections are in place to ensure all correspondence is legitimate. LaFond discussed getting a third party to look into the security of emails subscribed to the website. With regard to Marrone's prior request for Dewhurst to step down as chairman Dewhurst stated that he was unable to get the full committee together for a meeting during the holiday season. Ward asked if they met on a monthly basis and Dewhurst replied that due to the diverse schedules of the committee, they meet as needed. In response to a question from Franey regarding answering of questions forwarded via the website Dewhurst stated that he offered for the website committee to take turns answering but that they decided that he should remain responsible for doing so.

7:15 Semantics Consulting, Inc. corporate gift (Interactive/remote meeting equipment for Meeting Rooms #1 & #3)

Steve Dewhurst & Sarah Hewins discussed the audio/visual equipment they wished to give as a gift to the town. Hewins recused herself from the Board stating that she is a company officer. Dewhurst stated that the gift would consist of a 55" flat screen tv, wall mount, pc with remote meeting capability software and internet connection for meeting room #3; and a ceiling mounted projector with mounting equipment, cables & installation and network connections and all associated equipment for meeting room #1. Franey stated that remote participation was tabled at a previous meeting due to concerns of possible abuse. Dewhurst stated that remote participation would need to be approved by the Selectmen but that the equipment would allow discussions with lawyers, engineers, etc. without having to have everyone in the same room. Ward stated that they have done their due diligence and confirmed that it will not cost the town any money. Dewhurst stated that it may cost electricity when it is being run. Ward suggested accepting the gift & table the implementation. Dewhurst discussed how there would be no reason to wait. Ward would like the process in place and is in favor of making a motion to adopt their offer. Dewhurst stated that they have been trying to do this for about a year and does not see any issues, technical, legal or procedural. Dewhurst stated that he has consulted with CCAT and the town's wiring inspector regarding the necessary equipment and installation. LaFond stated that the package would make ease of use for presentations and be helpful for viewers in the meeting rooms and those watching on cable. He stated that it would make remote participation more feasible if implemented by the Board in the future. Ward - motion to accept offer of proposed gifts with a hold on activation until the board has the opportunity to discuss it further. Franey asked for a visual of what the equipment would look like in the room. Dewhurst described in detail where the equipment would be. Motion received no second. O'Donnell stated someone contacted him that may be able help the Board and the Website Committee come to agreement about some things due to the events that transpired and that he would be speaking to Dewhurst. Motion by Franey to table the acceptance of the gift, second by Marrone. Vote 3-1 (Ward opposed).

Appointment of Lawrence Hemingway to the Commission on Disability

He was unable to attend the meeting. Motion to table his appointment by Franey, Second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

Carver Sportsman's Club request for a One Day Special License for January 25, 2013

Motion to approve request for a One Day Special License by Franey, Second by Ward. Vote 4-0-1 (O'Donnell).

Approval of Minutes of Oct 23, December 4 and December 18

Motion to table minutes of Oct. 23 & Dec. 18 by S. Hewins, second by Ward. Vote 4-1 (Franey).
Motion to approve minutes of Dec. 4 by Ward, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Citizens Participation:

Heather Sepelvida and Amanda Wentworth (31 Weston St) discussed changes that need to be made in the current school building and stated that we are still within the time frame of the MSBA to submit a statement of interest. Wentworth asked if the Board of Selectmen is willing to support the submission of the statement to MSBA and to add a non-binding question of support for the project to the April 2013 ballot. She stated that In 2011 the school project was voted down by only a small amount of votes and she believes it is time to be given the chance for citizens to have the opportunity to speak on this matter again.

LaFond stated that the Town Clerk requires specific language if that is what the Board wishes to do and the Board is not a position to vote on the question tonight. Franey suggested that the School Committee attend the next meeting and explain their position on the issue. He would also like to request the Capital Outlay Committee and Finance committee be present to discuss the issue.

O'Donnell cautioned everyone to be prepared to negotiate.

Wentworth stated she has a problem with a monetary amount being put on her children's safety. O'Donnell responded that he respectfully disagreed about putting a price tag on the children's safety. He agrees a new school would be good for the town. He suggested scaling back in other areas such as community preservation and suggested other options be found as a resource for money.

O'Donnell suggested putting it on the next agenda. Marrone discussed how the town is in the same place financially it was as when the vote originally failed. Wentworth stated that she has gotten feedback by many who have changed their mind about the vote and would like the opportunity for the public to have a voice in the decision again. Marrone implored the public to think about the cost of the school and whether or not the town can really afford this.

Ward stated that he is tired of hearing "no" and that there won't be a school for at least 4 years and that the high school, police & fire station will also need to be renovated. The economy will not change drastically but that the town needs to start moving forward.

Rod Forrester spoke: Agrees that we need a new school and stated that a plan was put together that would finance the school without raising taxes and it was kicked out. If approved, it would have avoided a 2 ½ override.

Hewins corrected Forrester that Steve Pratt & Dan Ryan's plan was actually for a debt service for the school project and the establishment of a building stabilization account for personal property money to fund other projects. She stated that the town was strongly advised against an under-ride.

Tracy Kennedy spoke: Several years ago, there were many parents who were not aware of what was going on in the school, now that her youngest is in Kindergarten, she is realizing the obstacles that are effecting her child and they are a result of the school being in disrepair. She stated that everyone struggles and stated people need to put their children first.

Louis McGuiver spoke: She came here for the safety of the children, she would like to work with the police department to help the kids to stay safe at school. She would like everyone to think about safety of the children while the town works out getting a new school.

Steve Pratt spoke: Made a suggestion in 2009, the Board turned down a debt exclusion and under-ride proposal for the new school. He doesn't want this to be a 20 year discussion about getting a new school. He suggested putting multiple questions on the ballot for an underride. He doesn't care what the board has to do-the children and the town deserve it.

LaFond stated that an underride would drastically affect the school budget.

Wentworth stated that everyone agrees there needs to be a school, and would like to help educate the public on the state of school.

The Board agreed to invite the School, Finance, and Capital Outlay Committees to the January 22 meeting.

Chris Belbin: 26 Gate St.

Troop 48 Life scout: requested for his proposed Eagle Scout project to be put on the next agenda. He is proposing to clean up the 0 Wade Street property and gave a brief description of the current status of the property condition.

Don Williams, Old Colony School Committee member. He stated that enrollment is up but that there are 2 Carver vacancies on the school committee and that he is the only remaining member. He made a plea to the public to try and fill the other two seats so Carver could be fully represented.

Robert Belbin, Speaking as RDA member: With regard to 0 Wade Street he stated that he was seeking approval at the next meeting to have access to the property to get quotes from surveyors for an environmental assessment paid for by the RDA.

Robert Belbin: stated that he made a public records request for emails submitted to website subscription service and that there has to be a record of the encrypted emails sent or received. He is requesting the selectmen to mandate the website committee to release the emails. He offered to pay

to have the decoding done. O'Donnell stated if it is under review of the Secretary of State, then we should wait to hear the results.

Anne Marie Olson: Stated her concerns about one person heading the website O'Donnell stated that would like to pursue recommendations he received by an individual with Dewhurst. She also commented on the school and does not want the public to feel that children are being sent to a school that is unsafe. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. She questioned who will protect the kids outside of the school.

Town Administrator Notes:

Reminder to the Board that there is an EOC event on 3/21. Also, he stated that he met with Finance Committee on finalizing the timetables for the budget process. He stated that the screening group would be meeting with 3 before deciding on additional advertising.

Selectmen Notes:

Franey- Stated that there is an opening on the Housing Authority and to contact them if interested. He commented on the low number of tax payments received to date. He reminded people about the joint meeting regarding the school project. Ward suggested moving the next meeting to 6:30.

Hewins- Stated that the Assessors office informed us that Dee Vicino has been awarded the Massachusetts Assessor Accreditation and would like to congratulate her.

Ward – Stated that the food pantry is still in dire need of spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, canned fruit, boxes of cereal & tuna fish and can be dropped off at the library. He would like the airport commission position opening put on the next agenda as he is resigning. He stated that he has enjoyed working with that committee.

O'Donnell – Reminded all to keep service men & women in your thoughts and prayers. God Bless the Town of Carver

Marrone –Thanked the parents and hopes the momentum stays strong for the school project. Also, stated that she is holding office hours at town hall 6:30 on Tuesdays and also on Saturdays from 11-12 at the Frosty Dog. Her cell phone is 508-280-1375

Motion at 9:15 pm by Ward, Second by Franey that the Board go into executive session under MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21 for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation strategy: Unanimous Role Call Vote.